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LOS ANGELES TIMES
4 December 1980

U.S. Officials Issue Warning

Reagan's Staff Target of Foreign Surveillance

By JACK NELSON, *Times* Washington Bureau Chief

U.S. officials have warned members of President-elect Ronald Reagan's transition staff that they are a major target of foreign surveillance and intelligence work, *The Times* learned Wednesday.

The warning came after several transition staffers in Washington reported that they had been contacted by what a transition official described as Soviet Embassy officers "and other KGB types," a reference to the Soviet secret police and espionage unit.

Central Intelligence Agency officials, in a briefing in the Washington transition office Monday, told 200 staff members that they should be aware that the Soviets are seeking sensitive information as well as looking for potential recruits.

"The CIA enlightened a lot of people, especially younger people who are new to Washington, that they might have information that a foreign government wants," one transition official said.

Soviets Unusually Active

Although it is not unusual for a foreign government to seek information about an incoming administration, the Soviets were described as unusually active in seeking to learn how national security matters will be conducted under the Reagan Administration.

A 23-year-old transition staffer, who asked not to be identified, told *The Times* that he went to lunch at the invitation of an officer of the Soviet Embassy in Washington last week, but only after clearing the appointment with the FBI and Richard V. Allen, Reagan's chief foreign policy adviser.

"I took another staff member with me," he said, "because I was advised it was better to have a second person with you if you meet with any of them and to be aware that they are pumping for information and looking for recruits."

The staff member said the Soviet official "asked questions about the National Security Council, and basically we told him we didn't know anything. It was all very reasonable and very friendly. We couldn't get a rise out of him even when we asked questions about Poland and human rights. He was pushing for more personal contacts, but we didn't give him any."

Allen, meanwhile, was described Wednesday by a transition spokesman as "the only transition official authorized to speak on President-elect Reagan's behalf on foreign affairs."

The foreign affairs adviser, who is widely believed to be the leading candidate to become Reagan's assistant for national security, recently sent a memo to staff members warning them that they could not speak on Reagan's behalf unless given specific permission to do so. The warning followed several controversial statements made on foreign affairs by transition officials.

Allen, who stays in close contact with Secretary of State Edmund S. Muskie and National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski, briefs Reagan daily by telephone on sensitive national security subjects, such as the current Soviet Union-Poland confrontation.

Reagan and his wife, Nancy, spent another quiet day at their Pacific Palisades residence Wednesday and later were dinner guests at the residence of the Alfred Bloomingdales.